

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Gene DiPoto  
 App. No. : 10/693,815  
 Filed : October 24, 2003  
 For : METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR  
 STABILIZING THE SPINE THROUGH  
 AN ACCESS DEVICE  
 Examiner : Unknown  
 Group Art Unit : 3732

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is form PTO-1449 listing 105 references. Copies of disclosed U.S. patents and/or publications are not included pursuant to PTO waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for applications filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of other references, if listed, are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

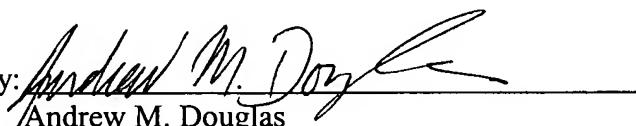
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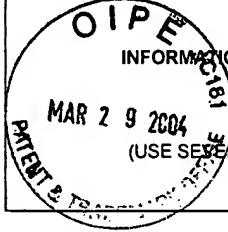
Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 25, 2004

By: 

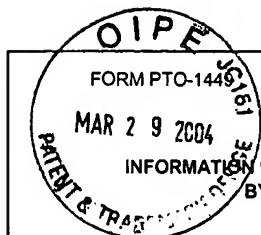
Andrew M. Douglas  
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 (949) 760-0404

FORM PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT MAR 29 2004 (USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. ENDIUS.031A	APPLICATION NO. 10/693,815
		APPLICANT Gene DiPoto	
		FILING DATE October 24, 2003	GROUP 3732

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
1	3,789,852	02/05/74	Kim et al.			
2	4,545,374	10/08/85	Jacobson			
3	4,601,713	07/22/86	Foqua			
4	4,716,901	01/05/88	Jackson et al.			
5	4,819,620	04/11/89	Okutsu			
6	4,921,478	05/01/90	Solano et al.			
7	4,984,564	01/15/91	Yuen			
8	5,024,213	06/18/91	Asher et al.			
9	5,025,778	06/25/91	Silverstein et al.			
10	5,131,382	07/21/92	Meyer			
11	5,139,499	08/18/92	Small et al.			
12	5,163,949	11/17/92	Bonutti			
13	5,171,279	12/15/92	Mathews			
14	5,190,561	03/02/93	Graber			
15	5,195,541	03/23/93	Obenchain			
16	5,197,971	03/03/93	Bonutti			
17	5,224,680	07/06/93	Greenstein et al.			
18	5,287,845	02/22/94	Faul et al.			
19	5,295,994	03/22/94	Bonutti			
20	5,312,417	05/17/94	Wilk			
21	5,354,302	10/11/94	Ko			
22	5,370,647	12/6/94	Graber et al.			
23	5,395,317	07/07/95	Kambin			
24	5,439,464	08/08/95	Shapiro			
25	5,454,365	10/03/95	Bonutti			
26	5,472,426	12/05/95	Bonati et al.			
27	5,484,437	01/16/96	Michelson			
28	5,489,307	02/06/96	Kuslich et al.			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.	

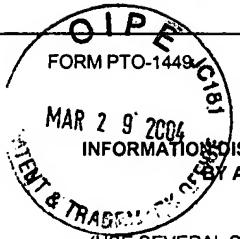


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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
29	5,520,607	05/28/96	Frassica et al.			
30	5,571,072	11/05/96	Kronner			
31	5,575,754	11/19/96	Konomura			
32	5,601,690	02/11/97	Gauld et al.			
33	5,667,520	09/16/97	Bonutti			
34	5,707,359	01/13/98	Bufalini			
35	5,792,044	08/11/98	Foley et al.			
36	5,795,289	08/18/98	Wyttenbach			
37	5,827,319	10/27/98	Carlson et al.			
38	5,954,635	09/21/99	Foley et al.			
39	5,961,499	10/05/99	Bonutti et al.			
40	5,997,508	12/07/99	Lunn et al.			
41	6,036,693	03/14/00	Yuan et al.			
42	6,080,156	06/27/00	Asher et al.			
43	6,083,224	07/04/00	Gertzbein et al.			
44	6,120,437	09/19/00	Yoon et al.			
45	6,162,236	12/19/00	Osada			
46	6,171,299	01/09/01	Bonutti			
47	6,187,000	02/13/01	Davison et al.			
48	6,214,005	04/10/01	Benzel et al.			
49	6,241,730	06/05/01	Alby			
50	6,267,764	07/31/01	Elgerg			
51	6,306,137	10/21/01	Troxell			
52	6,306,170	10/23/01	Ray			
53	6,312,443	11/06/01	Stone			
54	6,338,730	01/15/02	Bonutti et al.			
55	6,358,226	03/19/02	Ryan			
56	6,361,488	03/26/02	Davison et al.			

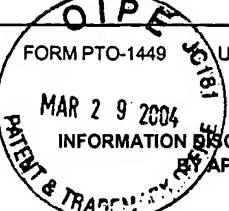
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57	6,371,968	04/16/02	Kogasaka et al.			
58	6,383,195	05/07/02	Richard			
59	6,440,169	08/27/02	Elberg et al.			
60	6,494,893	12/17/02	Dubrul et al.			
61	6,497,654	12/24/02	Leonard et al.			
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63	6,530,880	03/11/03	Pagliuca			
64	6,530,926	03/11/02	Davison			
65	6,564,078	05/13/03	Marino et al.			
66	2001-0011170	08/02/01	Davison et al.			
67	2001-0037111	11/01/01	Dixon et al.			
68	2001-0049498	12/06/01	Davison et al.			
69	2002-0002360	01/03/02	Orth et al.			
70	2002-0013586	01/31/02	Justis et al.			
71	2002-0120269	08/29/02	Lange			
72	2002-0120270	08/29/02	Trieu et al.			
73	2003-0009130	01/09/03	Stecker et al.			
74	2003-0014068	01/16/03	Bonutti et al.			
75	2003-0040656	02/27/03	Pagliuca et al.			
76	2002-0052603	05/02/02	Nichols et al.			
77	2003-0073998	04/17/03	Pagliuca			
78	2003-0083657	05/01/03	Drewry et al.			
79	2003-0139648	07/24/03	Foley et al.			
80	2003-0153927	08/14/03	DiPoto et al.			
81	2003-0191371	10/09/03	Smith et al.			
82	2003-0195405	10/16/03	Marino et al.			
83	2003-0195493	10/16/03	Davison et al.			
84	2003-0195549	10/16/03	Davison et al.			

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
85	2003-0195550	10/16/03	Davison et al.			
86	2003-0195551	10/16/03	Davison et al.			
87	2003-0199871	10/23/03	Foley et al.			
88	2003-0199884	10/23/03	Davison et al.			
89	2003-0199885	10/23/03	Davison et al.			

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
90	EP 0 980 677 A1	02/23/00	European Patent Office				
91	EP 0 528 562 A2	02/24/93	European Patent Office				
92	EP 0 807 415 A2	11/19/97	European Patent Office				
93	EP 0 807 415 A3	08/12/98	European Patent Office				
94	EP 1 305 077 A1	05/02/03	European Patent Office				
95	JP 2000-083960 A2	03/28/00	Japanese Patent Office				X
96	JP 2001-149376 A2	06/05/01	Japanese Patent Office				X
97	WO 01/54560 A2	08/02/01	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
98	WO 02/078767 A2	10/10/02	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
99	WO 02/09801 A1	02/07/02	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
100	WO 92/21292 A2	12/10/92	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
101	WO 93/14801	08/05/93	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
102	WO 94/03114	02/17/94	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
103	WO 95/10218 A1	04/20/95	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
104	WO 95/32663	12/07/95	Patent Cooperation Treaty				
105	WO 03/007783 A2	01/30/03	Patent Cooperation Treaty				

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